BUILD IT

RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

This adventure can assist Webelos Scouts as they develop building and motor skills, tool knowledge, and good safety practices. It also helps them gain appreciation for several forms of craftsmanship.

TAKEAWAYS FOR CUB SCOUTS

- Tool safety
- Building skills
- Motor skills
- A Scout is Helpful: Some Scouts may need additional help as they journey through this adventure.
- A Scout is Courteous: Scouts may need to wait their turn in using materials.
- A Scout is Obedient: Scouts must follow safety rules as they work on projects.

ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS

Webelos Handbook, page 290

Do all of these:

1. Learn about some basic tools and the proper use of each tool. Learn about and understand the need for safety when you work with tools.
2. With the guidance of your Webelos leader, parent, or guardian, select a carpentry project and build it.
3. List the tools that you use safely as you build your project; create a list of materials needed to build your project.
4. Put a check mark next to the tools on your list that you used for the first time.
5. Learn about a construction career. With your Webelos den leader, parent, or guardian, visit a construction site, and interview someone working in a construction career.

NOTES TO DEN LEADER

This adventure can be completed in two den meetings and a den outing. If additional time is required to complete the building project, an extra den meeting may be planned.

Meeting 3 will be an outing to a building construction site. In advance of the outing, the leader will need to make arrangements with the outing location and confirm the outing plan with families, including transportation and any additional items they need to bring. Make sure a tour and activity plan has been submitted, if required, and activity consent forms are distributed, signed, and collected. See if a building professional will be available to serve as a guide at the location and be interviewed by the Scouts; if this is not possible, the interview will need to be scheduled at one of the other meetings.

See the Appendix for optional den meeting activities, including openings, gatherings, and closings.

MEETING 1 PLAN

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- U.S. and den flags
- Identify parents (or other adults in the pack) who are handy with tools and could assist at the meetings. These might include woodworkers, carpenters, artists, and arts and crafts hobbyists.
- Tools for practicing (Activity 1): hammer, handsaw, coping saw, flathead and Phillips head screwdrivers, tape measure, and level. Other tools may be added to the list and brought by the Scouts, borrowed from parents, or purchased from a home improvement store. Collect several of each item to allow as much hands-on experience as possible.
- Safety gear including a hard hat, vest, gloves, eye protection, ear protection (plugs or phones), and a simple face mask or dust mask. Again, try to collect several of each item.
- Nails and screws (both flathead and Phillips)
- Scrap lumber for sawing, cutting, or driving in nails
- Materials for the Safety Sam Relay (Activity 2): Two sets of safety equipment with at least three or four of the items listed above

GATHERING

- As Scouts arrive, have them play the "Simon Says" Tool Game. Follow the usual "Simon Says" rules, but with the following actions (add more if you wish).
  - Turn like a screwdriver—Scouts spin slowly around as they move forward.
  - Hammer—Scouts hop forward.
  - Cut like a saw—Scouts take one step forward, one step back, and repeat.
  - Measure one foot—Scouts take one step forward.
  - Measure two feet—Scouts take two steps forward.
  - Oops, made a wrong cut—Scouts take three steps backward.
  - Oops, hit my thumb—Scouts hop up and down, but do not move forward.

OPENING

- Conduct a flag ceremony of your choosing that includes the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.
- Give each boy one point of the Scout Law and have him name a tool that matches that characteristic. For example, a hammer might be trustworthy or an old tool might be loyal. There are no right or wrong answers.

TALK TIME

- Carry out business items for the den.
- Allow time for sharing among Webelos Scouts.
- Introduce the Build It adventure to the den. Build interest by describing the goals of the adventure and some of the activities that are planned.
- Show the woodworking tool display and demonstrate the proper use of each tool. Be sure the person doing this uses safety equipment. Then show the proper way to clean and store the tools.
- Remind Scouts that next week is the building project (requirement 2), and decide with them what the project will be. Together, create a list of the tools and materials they will need.

- Discuss tool safety using the information in the *Webelos Handbook.* Have the Scouts explain why tool safety is important and what can happen if safety rules aren't followed. Make certain each boy participates in the discussion, and be sure to cover the following items:
  - Hand protection: Wear gloves when necessary (handling lumber, boxes of nails, etc.), and ALWAYS position your fingers and thumb carefully when cutting.
  - Head: Wearing a hard hat is a good idea when you are working in an area that may have falling items or debris.
  - Ears: Your hearing can be damaged very easily. Be certain you wear good quality ear protection when you are in an area that may have construction noise.
  - Eyes: Safety glasses are a must, ALWAYS AND ON EVERY PROJECT. If you wear prescription glasses, side shields can be purchased that slip onto the earpieces of the frame. This prevents debris and dust from entering your eye from the side.
  - Feet: Wear good quality leather shoes with thick soles if at all possible. This type of shoe will protect your foot if something falls on it, or prevent a puncture if you step on a nail. NEVER WEAR sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes, etc.
  - Nose and lungs: Small dust particles can be inhaled quite easily through your nose and mouth. Cutting, sanding, drilling, etc., all create these particles. Simple and inexpensive masks are available at many stores; however, in a pinch you can also use your Webelos neckerchief or bandanna tied around the lower portion of your face.

ACTIVITIES

◇ Activity 1: Tool Practice (Requirement 1)

- Using scrap lumber, tools, and the personal safety equipment, have each Webelos Scout: a) hammer in at least one nail, b) screw in at least one screw, and c) make a cut ¼- or ½-inch deep using both a handsaw and a coping saw.
- Dividing the Scouts into smaller groups doing different functions should keep this activity from running too long, which is why additional help from parents will be helpful.
- It is important that Scouts learn to use the tools properly. Before they finish, have each Scout demonstrate the correct way to clean the last tool he used, and how to store it.

◇ Activity 2: Safety Sam Relay

- Place two identical sets of safety equipment at one end of the room. Divide the Scouts into two teams. Then divide each team into two groups standing 10–15 feet apart with one group behind the safety equipment.
- On “Go,” Scout 1 on each team properly puts on all the safety equipment, then races to the other end, where he takes off the equipment and hands it to Scout 2. This teammate puts on the equipment and play continues until all Scouts have had a turn. The first team to finish wins.
- An alternative if you have a small den: Use a stopwatch to time how long it takes to put on all the equipment and then take it off. After each Scout has had a turn, compare the times; shortest time wins.

CLOSING

- **Den Leader Minute.** Talk about the similarity between a building project and the building of friendships among Scouts. In both cases, we start at the beginning, proceed carefully, and end up with something great in the end. But everyone’s building project will look different, and some may take longer to develop than others—just as our friendships do.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Serve refreshments, if desired.
- Work together to clean up the meeting place.
- Record completion of requirement 1.

MEETING 2 PLAN

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- U.S. and den flags
- Items for building project:
  - Specific hand tools, depending on the project
  - A completed sample of the project to serve as a visual aid
  - Safety equipment such as safety glasses/goggles, gloves, etc.
  - Materials and directions for building a step stool, paper towel holder, and wall shelf are included in the *Webelos Handbook.* Precut kits for various projects are available in many home improvement centers, hardware and hobby stores, and probably your local Scout shop as well. Be sure to pick something that is challenging but age-appropriate for Webelos Scouts. There should be several steps to the project using several different tools.
- Again, if needed get some assistance from parents within the pack, local carpenters, builders, hobbyists, or artists. Prepare thank-you notes in advance for Scouts to sign and give to the volunteers.
- Many hardware and home improvement stores can provide meeting spaces, project plans, and other resources, as well as project classes for young people. You may also consider using someone's home workshop or building shop. (If you choose not to meet in the usual place: Confirm that a tour and activity plan has been submitted, if required, and that transportation to and from the location is in place. Secure signed activity consent forms.)

GATHERING

The location will guide you in selecting a Gathering activity. If meeting in the usual place, have a game of freeze tag. If you are in an alternate location with limited space, have Scouts play a round of "gossip" with a building theme:

Webelos Scouts stand or sit in a circle. The denner whispers some information to the Scout on his right, who in turn whispers to the next boy and so on. The last boy to get the information shares aloud what he heard. Then have Scouts compare this last statement to what the denner said originally—the two may be quite different! An example of building-related information might be "Frank Smith drove to the lumber yard and purchased one hammer, two boxes of nails, and a dozen 2x4 boards."

OPENING

- Conduct a flag ceremony of your choosing that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and, as appropriate, the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Have each Scout fill in the blanks on this statement: *If I were a tool, I would be a* _____ *so I could fix (or build) a* _____ *for my* _____. (Example: If I were a tool, I would be a screwdriver so I could fix loose door handles for my parents.)

TALK TIME

- Carry out business items for the den.
- Allow time for sharing among Webelos Scouts.
- Do a quick review of safety rules, and how to use any safety equipment involved for this project.
- Show the den the sample of the completed project.
- Remind the den of three points of the Scout Law:
  - Helpful: They may need to assist others in the den.
  - Courteous: They may have to wait their turn if supplies are being shared.
  - Obedient: They must follow the safety rules.

ACTIVITIES

◆ Activity 1: Building Project (Requirements 2, 3, and 4)

- Dividing the den into smaller groups will help with tool sharing and project help. Make certain each Webelos Scout understands the steps necessary to build the project. Then let them begin.
- Have each Scout record a list of the tools he uses safely and those he uses for the first time, to be entered in the *Webelos Handbook* (requirements 3 and 4). Or, to avoid interrupting the project, the den chief could keep a running list for reference after the meeting.
- Suggest the den members bring their projects to show at the next pack meeting.

CLOSING

- Gather the den together and recite the Scout Law. Have each Scout name a tool he used and say which point of the Scout Law is exhibited by that tool. There are no wrong answers for this exercise.
- Review details for the upcoming outing in Meeting 3. Make sure all Scouts and their families know the plans.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Clean and store tools properly, and make certain the work area has been cleaned.
- Serve refreshments, if desired.
- Record completion of requirements 2, 3, and 4.
- Sign thank-you notes for anyone who helped or provided meeting space.
- Coordinate with upcoming pack meeting to display completed projects. Make arrangements with Webelos Scouts and parents to bring the projects to that meeting, or keep them in one place until that time.
- Prepare more thank-you notes for those who help with the upcoming outing.

MEETING 3 PLAN (Den Outing)

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- Several small lengths of rope for knot tying (Gathering)
- Thank-you notes for Scouts to sign after the outing
- Confirm that a tour and activity plan has been submitted, if required, and that transportation to and from the construction site is in place. Secure signed activity consent forms.
- Make arrangements with the location at least a month in advance and see if a building professional will be available to guide the tour and be interviewed by the Scouts.
- Inform the Scouts and their families of any safety gear that may be required at the site and make arrangements to borrow it if necessary.
- Bring blank index cards and pens or pencils for Scouts to write their questions for the interview.
- Unit den leader should have in possession (if required by local council practices) the tour and activity plan and a copy of the *Guide to Safe Scouting.*
- Alternatively, you may make arrangements to have the construction site visit and interview done virtually using the Internet or other media source.

GATHERING

- Safety is extremely important at any construction site, as is keeping the group together.
- Have the Webelos Scouts tie knots while waiting for everyone to arrive. The den chief will choose the first knot to be tied. The first Scout who ties it correctly selects the next knot, and so on.

OPENING

- Recite the Scout Oath.

TALK TIME

- Carry out business items for the den, if this can be done easily and safely at the site.
- Allow time for sharing among Webelos Scouts.
- Review the Scouts' questions to ensure they relate to careers in construction and all are appropriate. Hand out index cards and pens or pencils to write down the questions.
- Remind the Scouts about appropriate behavior and using their best listening skills during the tour. (A Scout is courteous.)
- Have Scouts sign the thank-you notes to hand out before they leave.

ACTIVITIES

◇ Activity 1: Construction Site Tour (Requirement 5)

- Introduce the professional leading the tour and let this person know the Scouts have some questions they want to ask later on.
- Allow time for the interview after the tour.
- As appropriate, have den members present their thank-you notes and show appreciation to all who led or assisted with the outing.

CLOSING

- Gather the den together and have each Scout share one thing he learned during the construction site visit.

AFTER THE MEETING

- If it can be done safely, share refreshments with the host.
- Ensure that any necessary cleanup is done before leaving.
- Record completion of requirement 5.

Upon completion of the Build It adventure, your Webelos Scouts will have earned the adventure pin shown here. Make sure they are recognized for their completion by presenting the adventure pins, to be worn on their uniforms, as soon as possible according to your pack's tradition.